TWO PETITIONS OF THE COVNTY OF *SOMMERSET*;

THE ONE,

To the *KING'S* moſt Excellent MAJESTY, with His *Majeſties* Gratious Anſwer, at *Sturminſter* OCTOB. 9.

THE OTHER,

To the LORDS and COMMONS of PARLIAMENT Aſſembled at *WESTMINSTER*:

Together with,

A *DECLARATION* OF the ſaid County of *Sommerſet* at a Publique meeting at *Wells, Octob.* 14. 1644.

That they intend as one Man to follow His Sacred MAJESTY towards *London*, in Obedience to His *Majeſties* Proclamation for a ſpeedy *Peace*.

OXFORD,
Printed by LEONARD LICHFIELD Printer to the *Vniverſity*. 1644.

TWO PETITIONS
OF THE COVNTY OF
SOMMERSET,

THE ONE,

To the KING'S most Excellent MAJESTY, with His *Majesties* Gratious Answer, at *Sturminster*, OCTOB. 9.

THE OTHER,

To the LORDS and COMMONS of PARLIAMENT Assembled at WESTMINSTER:

Together with,

A DECLARATION OF

the said County of *Sommerset* at a Publique meeting at *Wells Octob.* 14. 1644.

That they intend as one Man to follow His Sacred MAJESTY towards *London*, in Obedience to His *Majesties* Proclamation for a speedy *Peace*.

OXFORD,
Printed by LEONARD LICHFIELD Printer to the *University*, 1644.

To the KINGS most Excellent MAIESTIE.

The humble Petition of the Gentry, and Freeholders, and others your MAIESTIES *Loyall and Protestant Subjects of your County of* SOMERSET.

Most humbly sheweth,

THat among the many miseries that the present Warre hath brought upon them, it hath beene a great comfort to them to see your pious inclinations to, and continued endeavours for setting Peace againe, and had hoped that your Majesties gracious Message to that purpose, would have produced that desired effect; But not finding the successe answerable to their expectations, and your Majesty being now upon a March nearer towards *London*, They humbly beseech your Majesty, That they may have liberty to wait in person upon your Majesty, and at a nearer distance of place, become Petitioners to the Lords and Commons of Parliament assembled at *Westminster*, to imbrace your Majesties gracious offers of Peace, and put an end to the calamities of this distracted and almost ruined Nation, with due care to the preservation of the true Reformed Protestant Religion, your Majesties Rights and Honour, the Priviledges of Parliament, and your Subjects Liberties and Property, according to the Lawes of this your Kingdome; And in case they may not obtaine so just a request, they shall hold their lives best spent in assisting your Majesty to compasse that by the Sword, which by any other faire and just way could not be effected, to which end they desire Liberty to put themselves in Armes, and as they alwayes lived, shall rejoyce to dye your Majesties most loyall and faithfull Subjects.

Sturmiſter October 9.

I Am Commanded by His Majeſty, to ſignify to the Petitioners, That He well approves their hearty and loyall affections; and is graciouſly pleaſed to accept the free offer of their Service to Him, with thanks, and gives them free Liberty to meet, and put themſelves in Armes, according to their deſire, and wait upon Him, and doth freely give leave to them, to become Petitioners of the Lords and Commons of Parliament aſſembled at *Weſtminſter*, for compoſing the unhappy differences of this poore Kingdome in a peaceable way; and ſhall be glad to have the Petitioners, and all other His loyall and well-affected Subjects preſent with Him, and be witneſſes who is in the fault if they be not preſently reſtored to a happy Peace againe. He hereby aſſuring them, That He will onely inſiſt upon the preſervation of the true Reformed Proteſtant Religion, His owne knowne Rights, the Priviledges of Parliament, and His Subjects Liberty and Property according to the Lawes of the Kingdome, and ſhall endeavour to have all theſe ſetled in a full and free convention of Parliament; And becauſe he would not have the good intentions of the Petitioners fruſtrated, He wiſheth them to take care to make ſuch Proviſions as may be neceſſary for their journey; and they ſhall not faile of His beſt aſſiſtance likewiſe therein. And His Majeſty doth Command the Sheriffe of the ſaid County to ſummon the *Poſſe* thereof or any other perſons Inhabitants of the ſame, at ſuch times, and to ſuch places as the Commiſſioners ſhall thinke fit for the advancement of this buſineſſe.

RICHMOND & LENOX.

At Wells 14. Octob. 1644.

The Commiſſioners doe order this to be publiſhed by the ſame perſons and at the ſame time with the Declaration and Petition hereunto annexed.

A Declaration of the County of Somerſet, *at a publike meeting at* Wells *the* 14. *of* October, 1644.

WHereas we lately conceived very great hopes, That thoſe many gracious Overtures from His Majeſty to thoſe at *London*, eſpecially that from *Eveſham*, and that from *Taveſtocke* (ſince his late ſucceſſe) might have given a riſe to ſuch an happy Treaty as might have cleared thoſe miſunderſtandings betweene His Majeſty and His People, and conſequently have put an end to thoſe bleeding differences; But, contrary to our expectation, thoſe gracious Meſſages have found either ſuch cold reception, or ſuch unſatisfying Anſwers, that they have beene hitherto fruitleſſe, and ineffectuall; we are reſolved notwithſtanding all our diſcouragements, by laying before them the calamities of the Kingdome, once more to invite them to the ſame ſenſe thereof which we have; and as we have beene witneſſes of His Majeſties gracious offers, ſo we will waite upon Him to be witneſſes of His performance of them, being all of us ſuch Perſons, whom the Profeſſion of the Proteſtant Religion, and our intereſt in the Liberties and Properties of the Subject obliges to have as tender a reſpect of the violation of theſe, as any they can have: The ſumme of our reſolution is, to follow His Majeſty towards *London* as one man, either to propoſe to them, or receive from them, ſuch Propoſitions as may reſtore this Kingdome to all the Comforts and Bleſſings of Peace; That having alwayes agreed in the ſame pretences, we may no longer make our ſelves the wonder of the preſent age, nor the amazement of the future, when they ſhall inquire Why ſo much bloud hath beene ſhed, there hardly appearing any difference even ſo much as in words.

And whosoever in this County shall refuse to accompany us, we shall looke upon him as an Enemy to Peace, and shall proceed against him accordingly, not doubting (though we are the first who have undertaken unanimously to desire a concurrence in mediating this Peace) but that the universall Kingdome being involved in the same miseries, will either second or approve this our example; but if these our proffers of Peace can find no place with our Opposers, it will be then so evident by their refusall who are the Continuers, and by their continuing, the dispute will be so cleared, who were the Contrivers of these mischiefes, and consequently the Authors of all the miseries we have suffered, and from henceforth of whatsoever we shall suffer, that all men who have any bowels left towards their bleeding Countrey, any sense of Piety, any desire of Peace, or weariness of Warre, will joyne with us in following His Majesty, either to redeeme the Kingdome from these miseries by an happy Victory, or save themselves by dying in the pursuit of it, and we doubt not but to have that blessing upon us which is promised to those that seeke Peace and ensue it.

To the Lords and Commons of Parliament Assembled at *Westminster*.

The humble Petition of the Gentry, Clergy, Freeholders, and other His MAJESTIES Protestant Subjects of the County of SOMMERSET.

THough we have been very much discouraged from making any Addresses in way of this nature, by reason that those many made by His Majesty have hitherto ineffectuall; Yet being moved, not only by His constant and unwearied example, but by that most gracious Expression of His sense of our miseries in this particular, that He descends to suffer us to make an humble Overture of that for which in all equity He ought to have been petitioned by you: And believing that you, who have an equall share in the Sufferings, cannot but have an equall sense of the Calamities of the Kingdome; We humbly offer to your Consideration, That we, who professe the same Protestant Religion, and have an equall interest in the Liberties and Properties of the Subjects with you, cannot be so false to our selves, as either to give up that (to Popery) or those (to an arbitrary Government; That as we are now to hazard our Lives with his Majestie, upon a well grounded beleife of His Promises, so we will be no lesse ready to engage him in being Sureties for His reall performance. And therefore desire you to lay by the too tender sense of those imaginary evills which you only feare, and to joyne hands with us in an happy Treaty, for the removall of those reall Evills which we so sensibly suffer: And as we have always met in the same professions, so we may at last meet in the reall performance of what we have so long profest. The maintenance of the Protestant Religion, The safety of His Majesties Person, and undoubted Rights, The Liberty and Property of the Subject, and the just Priviledges of Parliament.

And

At Wells *the* 14 *of October* 1644.

It is thought fit and Ordered by the Commissioners, according to the desire of the Country then and there assembled, That the Ministers and Curats, and (in their default) the Church-wardens and Side-men in every Parish within this County, do read and publish, or cause to be read and published distinctly in their severall Parish-Churches and Chappels the next Sabbaoth-day (after the receipt) the above-mentioned Declaration, and draught of the Petition, and subscribe the same themselves; and likewise take the subscriptions of all men Inhabitants or resiants within the Parish to the same, of what age or condition soever, without exception: And take particular notice of such as refuse or delay to do the same; and make certificate to the Commissioners at *Wells* on Thursday next after the reading, at their perill; and then returne the sayd subscriptions. And if any be absent from Church, the Church-wardens are to leave present notice at their dwelling houses that they repaire the next day to such a place and at such houre as the Minister or Church-wardens shall appoint, and there subscribe the same. And the said Ministers, Curats, Church-wardens, and Side-men, are likewise at the time aforesayd, to certifie apart the names of all those that subscribe, which are betweene the ages of 16. and 60. and to informe themselves by the Church-booke of their severall ages, in case of doubt. And every Minister and Church-warden that shall receive any of these Papers, must give a Note to the Messenger that brings it of the very time of his receipt thereof. And the Ministers are hereby desired to exhort their Parishioners to joyne together in seeking and pursuing Peace as a thing well-pleasing to God, and the onely way to free them from the miseries of Warre, which they have too sensibly felt of late, and to pray for a blessing upon the present undertaking.

FINIS.